

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

East Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1

TOPIC: Military Information from Bernau

25X1

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT 3 to 9 March 1954

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE PREPARED 2 April 1954

REFERENCES

632963

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

1. At 1:10 p.m. on 3 March 1954, a convoy of about 30 trucks [REDACTED] moved toward Wandlitz from the direction of Bernau. Six of the trucks towed a 57-mm AT gun each, 12 trucks carried troops and about 12 trucks equipment. The convoy included a field kitchen. It came from the direction of the Luftnachrichten Kasernen (424). Informant confirmed that a large column had left the installation at about 4 p.m. On the evening of the same day, the northern and southern quarters of the installation were only about 25 percent lighted. The installation seemed to be vacant.

2. At 4:45 p.m., more columns came from the direction of Bernau and proceeded toward Schoenow-Schoenwalde. Observed were about 50 trucks, presumably loaded with ammunition, many track-laying vehicles which towed a 100-mm AT gun each, and 4 trucks with steaming field kitchens.

All troops observed wore red-bordered black epaulettes with artillery insignia.

On the evening of the same day, the clothing depot was about 50 percent lighted. On the morning of 4 March, more than 25 trucks were counted in front of two garages. Two other garages stood empty. In the afternoon on 3 March, about 60 trucks with 60 x 100-mm AT guns were lined up along the fence west of the motor vehicle garages. At the same time, three garages stood empty, while 22 trucks and 4 guns were parked in front of another garage.

3. At 4:30 p.m. on 4 March, 12 T-34 tanks and about 20 trucks were loaded at Bernau railroad station. The loading ramp was cordoned off by sentries, contrary to previous practice. At about the same time on 5 March, 8 armored scout cars, several armored personnel carriers and about 15 trucks [REDACTED] In the afternoon on 6 March, troops were loaded onto boxcars. No details could be learned. All shipments were dispatched toward Eberswalde.

4. The following loadings were made at Bernau freight station on 6 March: 30 trucks [REDACTED]

12 AT guns and about 15 sedans stood near the station ready to be loaded. The guns had an estimated caliber of 76.2-mm. The shipments were not observed to depart.

25X1

SECRET

-2-

25X1

5. In the afternoon on 5 March, most of the troops stationed in clothing depot No I (4244), Bernau, were at the installation. About 22 x 100-mm AT guns, 10 x 57-mm AT guns, 25 prime movers and 30 to 40 trucks were parked in the yard. About 200 to 300 troops engaged in maintenance work there. On 9 March, the guns and vehicles were again parked in the garages. About 20 to 25 trucks were not at the installation. No training activity was noticed.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

6. [redacted] the impression that the bulk of the troops from the Luftnachrichten Kaserne (4241) were again at the installation on 5 March. Observed were 3 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] On 7 and 9 March, each three T-34/85 tanks moved to the training area. On 9 March, the installation quartered an estimated 2,500 troops. Soldiers observed wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery insignia and, very few, with tank insignia.

7. Between 5 and 9 March, the former SS Brieftaubenstation (pigeon station) (4243) was still occupied by about 400 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery insignia. It could not be determined whether the troops moved out for unit exercises. Four 76.2-mm AA guns were still emplaced at the installation.

25X1

25X1

1. [redacted] Comment. According to previous information [redacted] of paragraphs 5 through 7, it was inferred that troops stationed in Bernau conducted exercises on the garrison training grounds in the area of Schoenow in late February and early March. [redacted] The march direction of the units of the 6th Gds Mech Div from the Luftnachrichten Kaserne on 3 March and of the 71st Light Arty Brig (US) from clothing depot No I supports the conclusion that these exercises were continued. According to information in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the present report, the exercises lasted until the afternoon of 5 March [redacted] the latest. The four sources did not observe the return of the troops, however.

2. [redacted] Comment. According to information [redacted] 12 tanks and motor vehicles of the 34th Tank Eng Bn of the 6th Gds Mech Div were loaded in the afternoon on 4 March, presumably for shipment to the Templin training grounds.

25X1

[redacted] According to the reference report, two trains with elements of the 120th (?) AAA Regt of the division from the SS Brieftaubenstation were loaded on 5 March, probably for shipment to Jüterbog. [redacted] on rail movements indicated that two trains were dispatched from Bernau to Neustrelitz on 6 March. According to other observations, the trains carried elements of the 71st Light Arty Brig (US). The latter loadings were partially confirmed by paragraphs 3 and 4. It was reported for the first time, however, that armored scout cars and armored personnel carriers were loaded on 5 March. It is possible that these vehicles also moved to Templin as did the tanks of the 34th Tank Eng Bn.

25X1

SECRET